

something for them to do when the effort is over.

Thirty years ago, when the delegates from Girls Nation came to the White House in the same summer that I was here, my next-door neighbor represented our State at Girls Nation. It was a great thrill for me, and she's still one of my closest friends. Just last week when I went home, she got some of our high school friends together, and they and all their children, there must have been 30 of us in her home having dinner together. And when she was here where you are, President Kennedy told the young women there assembled that it might be possible for one of them to become President, but it was not likely. And almost as a consolation prize, he said, "At least I'm sure I'm talking to a future First Lady." Well, today a lot of things have changed. First of all, I think that it is a very honorable thing to be the First Lady. Some day there will be a First Man. And I think it is not unlikely that 30 years from now the delegates from Girls Nation may well be in the Rose Garden being addressed by a woman President who is in this crowd today.

Again, let me wish you well, and thank you for coming here. Let me tell you that the 30 years that have passed since I sat where you are today have passed in the flash of an eye, that I hope for all of you a rich and full life, and I would encourage you to focus on the point I made earlier: You came here to learn about your country, your history, your opportunities, and your responsibilities as citizens. None of it matters very much unless you not only think and feel but also act.

Good luck, and God bless you.

Let me also say, I'm going to embarrass somebody who's here maybe a little bit. There are other things in life after a Girls Nation or Boys Nation than being President. I just learned that my military aide came to Girls Nation. Raise your hand. This is Major Michelle Johnson, the United States Air Force. She is from Iowa, graduate of the Air Force Academy, Rhodes scholar, terrific athlete. I told her someday I was sure I'd be saluting her and calling her general. So that also is something that you might do with your life that you couldn't have done perhaps a few years ago.

I'd like to now ask Joann Cronin to come up and take over the program.

[At this point, the President was presented with gifts.]

I saw the first resolution was the sex education one. That's one I said I was for. You may know that tomorrow the hearing begins on the appointment I made of an African-American doctor, the director of the department of health in my home State, to be the Surgeon General of the United States. And we caused a lot of controversy because we tried to promote comprehensive family education, parenting education, and we did our best to reduce the scourge of teenage pregnancy in our State, not by denying it but by embracing the challenge. And I appreciate the resolution that you sent. I will also review the other resolutions.

On Saturday—you mentioned 30 years from now—Saturday your counterparts from Boys Nation will be here, and we're going to have a 30-year reunion of my class Saturday at noon when they're here. So I'm looking forward to it. One of the things that happens when you run for President is that the people you haven't seen in a long time show up, and that's mostly good. So I'm looking forward to it.

Now are we going to take a picture? Is that the way we're going to do it? And then aren't we going to take a group photo also? Okay, great.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:47 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Joann Cronin, national Girls State director. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich of Belarus

July 22, 1993

Surgeon General Nominee

Q. Mr. President, are you confident that Dr. Elders has the answers to the questions she'll be asked tomorrow?

The President. I think she'll do very well.

Let me also say while Chairman Shushkevich is here that I am very honored to have him here in the White House. And I want to thank him publicly for the support his country has given to the nonproliferation regime and to START I. We're going to have a good partnership. I look forward to its development. And I very much appreciate the fact that he has come here off of a successful commitment by his nation to be nonnuclear. And it means a lot to the United States and to the world.

Midwest Disaster Assistance

Q. Are you concerned about getting the flood money from the House, sir?

The President. No, not from what I heard about that. I think it's okay.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:40 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Proclamation 6581—National Veterans Golden Age Games Week July 22, 1993

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Today, as many veterans reach their senior years, they are discovering the benefits of physical fitness and recreational activity. In Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities, recreation has become an established part of the rehabilitation process. VA experience and research show that sports and competitive involvement can be enriching because of their physical benefits and because of their role in enhancing social, emotional, and psychological well-being.

Recognizing the need to establish meaningful activities for a rapidly growing number of aging veterans, the VA established the National Veterans Golden Age Games in 1983. Since then, numerous veterans have boosted their health and aided their rehabilitation through participation in this showcase program. These competitors remind us of the value of continued physical activity through-

out a person's life and the physical goals and fulfillment we can achieve, regardless of age. These games demonstrate that age is no barrier to living life to its fullest.

The 7th National Veterans Golden Age Games, being held at Mountain Home VA Medical Center in Johnson City, Tennessee, offers a multi-event program of recreational competition for veterans, aged 55 and over, who are currently receiving VA medical care. Veterans whose military service covers the span of American history from World War I to Vietnam will participate.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 190, has designated July 17, 1993, through July 23, 1993, as "National Veterans Golden Age Games Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in its observance.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 17 through July 23, 1993, as National Veterans Golden Age Games Week. I urge all Americans to observe the week by remembering our hospitalized older veterans as they struggle to overcome infirmity and disability and to renew their own commitment to personal well-being through healthy recreational activity.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:27 p.m., July 23, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 27.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meeting With President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti

July 22, 1993

President Clinton held a cordial and constructive meeting this morning with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti. The